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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for accessing a user registry, comprising:
5 receiving a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on the user registry; and
responsive to receiving the registry-independent
10 instruction, executing registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.
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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is
20 to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is
25 to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

10. A method for accessing a user registry, comprising:

issuing a registry-independent instruction to a registry adapter to perform an operation on the user registry; and

responsive to the registry adapter's executing registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry, receiving a result of the operation.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.

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14. The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

5 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

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17. The method of claim 10, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the data object is
15 one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the result includes
20 a completion status code.

20. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for accessing a user registry, comprising instructions for:

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receiving a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on the user registry; and

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responsive to receiving the registry-independent instruction, executing registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

24. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

26. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

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27. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

5 28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

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29. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for accessing a user registry, comprising instructions for:

15 issuing a registry-independent instruction to a registry adapter to perform an operation on the user registry; and
responsive to the registry adapter's executing registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the
20 user registry, receiving a result of the operation.

30. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

25 31. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

32. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein
30 the function call is to a function that takes a

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structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.

5 33. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

10 34. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

15 35. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

36. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

20 37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

25 38. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the result includes a completion status code.

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39. A data processing system, comprising:

a bus system;

5 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein
the processing unit includes at least one processor;

memory; and

10 a set of instructions in the memory,

wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to perform the acts of:

15 receiving a registry-independent instruction to perform
an operation on a user registry; and

responsive to receiving the registry-independent
instruction, executing registry-dependent instructions to
20 perform the operation on the user registry.

40. A data processing system, comprising:

a bus system;

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a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein
the processing unit includes at least one processor;

memory; and

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a set of instructions in the memory,

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responsive to the registry adapter's executing registry-
10 dependent instructions to perform the operation on the
user registry, receiving a result of the operation.